



NWS Grand Rapids

Impacts Table



3.5.1 Impacts Table

Qualifier	Definition / Examples
Low	<p>Common event that occurs multiple times per season and produces some inconvenience with modest impacts to public safety. Most impact can be mitigated before the hazard ends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Isolated to scattered traffic accidents and modest slowdowns with brief lane or road closures due to accidents• Numerous School delays with some cancellations of schools and public events.• Isolated power outages and/or minor property damage
Moderate	<p>Annual event that produces substantial inconvenience with tangible impact on public safety. Public can mitigate many impacts given time to plan. Impacts may linger up to 12 hours after hazards ends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numerous auto related accidents, marked reduction of travel speeds, and temporary road closures due to accidents.• Numerous event cancellations including school closures and public events.• Possible flight delays lasting a few hours at airports.• Power outages affecting thousands lasting hours for the majority.• Modest property damage possible – mainly trees and poorly constructed out buildings.
High	<p>Rare event but most have some experience with a past similar event. Longevity of some impacts can be mitigated. Results in a marked danger to public safety. Impacts often last at least 12 to 24 hours after hazard ends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many secondary roads temporarily impassible, highway closures lasting at least several hours. Numerous including large multiple-vehicle accidents preceding closures.• All non-essential commerce, schools, & public events closed/cancelled – for days.• Flight delays and cancellations lasting one or more days• Power and/or communication outages affecting tens of thousands lasting a day or more.• Substantial property damage possible, including trees, roofs, outbuildings.• State Disaster Declaration for one or more counties possible.
Extreme	<p>Rare event with negligible societal experience – not possible to avoid impacts. High danger to public safety with widespread disruption of daily routines, utilities, and commerce that last many days or even weeks after hazard ends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many secondary roads impassable for days, highway closures lasting a day or more – possibly with stranded motorists. Inability to provide goods and services.• Widespread power and/or communication outages affecting hundreds of thousands lasting up to a week or more.• Access to food and water compromised for many.• Widespread property damage possible, including trees, roofs, outbuildings. Collapse of structures.• State/National Disaster Declaration for large area (many counties) – FEMA activated.



Winter Hazard Risk Assessment

Southwest Lower Michigan

Friday, November 6



Extreme



High

Moderate

Low

Weather Like this is

Historic - Once every 20+ years

Extremely Threatening to Life and Property

Typically Results in Total Disruption to Daily Life

Usually Days or Weeks Before Life Returns to Normal

Will This Weather Happen?

Near Certain	
Better Than a 50-50 Chance	
Unlikely	

Impact Potential

Travel Disruption Potential	High	Medium	Low
Power Outage Potential	High	Medium	Low
Blowing/Drifting Potential	High	Medium	Low



Winter Hazard Risk Assessment

Southwest Lower Michigan

Friday, November 6



Extreme

High



Moderate

Low

Weather Like this is

Rare – 1 to 3 Times a Year

Often Threatening to Life and Property

Typically Results in Large Disruption to Daily Life

Usually 1 to 3 Days Before Life Returns to Normal

Will This Weather Happen?

Near Certain	
Better Than a 50-50 Chance	
Unlikely	

Impact Potential

Travel Disruption Potential	High	Medium	Low
Power Outage Potential	High	Medium	Low
Blowing/Drifting Potential	High	Medium	Low



Winter Hazard Risk Assessment

Southwest Lower Michigan

Friday, November 6



Extreme

High

Moderate



Low

Weather Like this is
Common

Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property

Typically Results in Minor Inconvenience to Daily Life

Life Usually Returns to Normal Near When the Weather Ends

Will This Weather Happen?

Near Certain	
Better Than a 50-50 Chance	
Unlikely	

Impact Potential

Travel Disruption Potential	High	Medium	Low
Power Outage Potential	High	Medium	Low
Blowing/Drifting Potential	High	Medium	Low



Winter Hazard Risk Assessment

Southwest Lower Michigan

Friday, November 6



Extreme

High

Moderate

Low



Weather Like this is
Very Common

Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property

Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines

Life Usually Returns to Normal Before the Weather Ends


Will This Weather Happen?

Near Certain	
Better Than a 50-50 Chance	
Unlikely	

Impact Potential

Travel Disruption Potential	High	Medium	Low
Power Outage Potential	High	Medium	Low
Blowing/Drifting Potential	High	Medium	Low

Decision Threat Matrix – a Guide for Winter Weather Impact/Commonality and Confidence/Likelihood

Extreme Impact Historic Weather			
High Impact Rare Weather			
Moderate Impact Common Weather			
Low Impact Very Common Weather			
No Impact			
	Low Likelihood	Moderate Likelihood	High Likelihood

Blizzard/Ice Storm Warning
'Nuclear Option'

Once Every 10-20 Years or So
Worst of the Worst – The Big One
Takes Days to Weeks to Get Back to Normal

All WSW Warnings

1 to 3 times a year, Once Every 1-5 Years
Significant Disruption to Daily Life
1-3 Days or More until Life is Back to Normal

All WSW Advisories

Happens All the Time
Mostly Travel Disruption
Back to Normal in a Day or Less

No Action	Little or No Inconvenience – Little or No Impact on Daily Routines
Be Aware – Minor Actions	Caution – Especially When Travelling - Plan to Be Inconvenienced
Be Prepared – Major Actions	Expect Dangerous Conditions - Expect Major Disruption of Normal Activities
Immediate – Life Saving Action	Extremely Life Threatening - Everything Will be Shut Down – Possibly for Days or Weeks